

Message Text

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SUBJECT: U. S. REPORT TO UNESCO ON INTERNATIONAL
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING EDUCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND PEACE AND EDUCATION RELATING
TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

1. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CIRCULAR LETTER
CL/2501 DATED 5 APRIL 1976 WHICH CITED 18TH GENERAL CON-
FERENCE RESOLUTION 36, PERMDEL IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT
FOLLOWING INITIAL SPECIAL REPORT WITH THE SECRETARIAT ASAP.

2. SPECIAL REPORT: ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN REGARD TO THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING
EDUCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND
PEACE AND EDUCATION RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: THE MAJOR ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN IN
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THE UNITED STATES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1974 UNESCO

RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN THE SPONSORSHIP AND PUBLICATION BY THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO OF A BOOK BY THOMAS BUERGENTHAL, PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AND JUDITH TORNEY, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION". THIS BOOK (AVAILABLE FROM THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION UPON REQUEST) IS INTENDED TO INTRODUCE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL POLICY MAKERS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AND TEACHERS TO THE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES ARTICULATED IN THE RECOMMENDATION.

3. THE BOOK BEGINS WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFTING HISTORY AND LEGAL STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATION, FOLLOWED BY AN ANALYSIS OF ITS PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS. SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS PROVIDE AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF CONCEPTS AND PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION; A REVIEW OF RELEVANT SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FINDINGS CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES OF YOUNG PEOPLE; A DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES AND SYSTEMS FOR THEIR PROTECTION; AND A SELECTIVE LISTING AND REVIEW OF CURRICULUM MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES SEVEN TO TWELVE DEALING WITH THE TOPICS OF THE RECOMMENDATION.

4. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION TO USE THIS PUBLICATION AS THE BASIS FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING THE SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCES BRINGING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS AND WRITERS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL.

5. THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES ALSO CO-SPONSORED A UNESCO EXPERTS MEETING IN MICHIGAN IN MAY OF 1976 ON THE "ROLE OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS." PROFESSOR BUERGENTHAL, IN WELCOMING THE EXPERTS TO THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION, EMPHASIZED THAT "THE 1974 UNESCO RECOMMENDATION IS UNIQUE AMONG INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL

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INSTRUMENTS IN PROCLAIMING THAT EDUCATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE A VITAL AND INTEGRAL PART OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN EVERY COUNTRY." HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS IMPORTANT ELEMENT WOULD NOT BE LOST IN EFFORTS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION.

6. A ONE HOUR VIDEO TAPE HIGHLIGHTING THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PROFESSIONAL ORDAINI-

DATIONS AND DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM. THIS TAPE HAS BEEN PRODUCED WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE LONGVIEW FOUNDATION AND THE MIDWEST PROGRAM ON GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA.

7. A WORKING GROUP OF THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION IS ALSO EXAMINING FURTHER STRATEGIES OF IMPLEMENTATION. END REPORT.

8. DEPT. AND PROFESSORS BUERGENTHAL AND TORNEY WOULD APPRECIATE PERMDEL'S INQUIRY OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT (WHEN SUBMITTING THIS REPORT) OF WHEREABOUTS OF CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE UNESCO MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH WAS HELD LAST SPRING IN PARIS. KISSINGER

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